(a) whether Government propose to allow broadband operators access to cable television;

(b) whether any policy has been formulated in this regard;

(c) if so, the details therefor; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (d) Bordband Policy, 2004 recognises the importance of cable TV connection as last mile infrastructure for giving a stimulus to Broadband penetration. Therefore, cable TV network can be used as franchisee network of service provider for provisioning Broadband Services. However, all responsibilities for ensuring compliance of terms and conditions of licence shall vest with licensee. The terms of franchise agreement between the licensee and his franchise shall be settled mutually by negotiations between the two parties involved.

Inastallation of PCO booths in Punjab

1367. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths running in various districts of Punjab at present;

(b) the number of booths proposed to be installed during the current year;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose and the amount released, so far;

(d) whether the waiting list for PCOs is on the rise; and

(e) if so, by when the waiting list would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Sir, as on 31.01.2006, the number of STD/ISD/PCOs provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in various districts of Punjab is 42,317. The number of PCOs provided by private operators in Punjab is 1,11,096. The details are given in the enclosed Statement (see below).

(b) According to present policy of BSNL, PCOs are allotted to all the applicants who are of 18 years or above of age and the same are provided on first come first serve basis subject to technical feasibility. The number of booths to be installed during the current year depends on the demand.

(c) STD/ISD/PCO franchise of BSNL is responsible for the hiring/furnishing of premises, construction of booth, procurement of telephone instrument, PCO monitor etc. Only telephone line is provided by BSNL. No separate fund is earmarked for PCO lines as these are part of the Director Exchange Lines.

(d) There is no waiting list for PCOs of BSNL/Private operators in Punjab.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Statement

No. of PCOs in Punjab

(A) Number of PCOs of BSNL working in Punjab including Chandigarh as on 31.01.2006

Sl. No.	Name of revenue Distt.	Local PCOs	STD/ISD PCOs (including H/W PCOs)	Total
1	Amritsar	675	4274	4949
2	Bhatinda	55	1803	1858
3	Mansa	25	782	807
4	Chandigarh	396	1733	2129
5	Ferozpur	47	2539	2586
6	Faridkot	38	608	646
7	Muktsar	52	935	987
8	Moga	27	1015	1042
9	Hoshiarpur	138	2895	3033
10	Jalandhar	699	3023	3722
11	Kapurthala	76	861	937
12	Nawashahr	18	501	519
13	Ludhiana	1284	4976	6260
14	Patiala	175	2633	2808
15	Fatehgarh Sahib	74	707	781
16	Gurdaspur	144	4306	4450
17	Ropar	138	1697	1835
18	Sangrur	700	2268	2968
	Total	4761	37556	42317

(B) Number of PCOs provided by Private Operators in Punjab as on 22.02.2006

Sl. No.	Name of Private Operators	Number of PCOs
1	Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	37,621
2	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	19,372
3	HFCL Infotel Ltd.	41,702
4	Bharti Tele-ventures Ltd.	12,401
	Total	1,11,096

Guidelines relating to tapping of telephone calls

1368. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some fresh guidelines have been issued for tightening the rules relating to intercepting of telephone calls; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially those aimed at making the security agencies and telephone companies more accountable while tapping the phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions for ensuring privacy of communication has been issued by the Government which inter-alia include the following:

For Telephone Companies:

- To issue acknowledgment letters to Security Agencies within two hours of the receipt fo communication.
- To put in place of adequate and effective internal checks within their organizations.
- To have designated officers to receive the communication.
- Such communication to be handled by fairly senior level officers.

For Security Agencies:

- Only designated officers to convey the instructions for interception.